



Inside Illinois DNR

August 2020

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IDNR Careers

IDNR offers a wide array of professional careers in the conservation and natural resource arena. Click [here](#) to see the job openings available.

A Message from Director Colleen Callahan



It has been a busy summer at our Illinois state parks, recreation areas, fish and wildlife areas and other IDNR sites, and we are delighted so many of you have joined us in enjoying the beauty of the outdoors and fun of outdoor recreation.

In recent weeks, most of our Illinois State Historic Sites have reopened, and the Illinois State Museum's facilities in Springfield and Dickson Mounds Museum near Lewistown have begun welcoming visitors again in a staged reopening.

While we are happy to be open, we are also steadfast in our commitment to the health and safety of visitors and our IDNR staff, be it at a state park campground, boat access area, hiking trail, a historic site, state monument, or museum exhibit hall. With worrisome increases in cases of the coronavirus in parts of Illinois, visitors to IDNR sites are reminded of requirements to make sure they're feeling well, to maintain social distancing indoors and outdoors, to wear face coverings when social distancing isn't possible, and to keep hands clean with soap and water or hand sanitizer.

To help ensure visitor health and safety, a number of our State Historic Sites have free reservation opportunities for you to use through the Eventbrite website. The Illinois State Museum in Springfield – which has waived the usual adult admission fee – also uses the Eventbrite website for free visitor reservations, with a link on the ISM website at www.illinoisstatemuseum.org.

In addition, historic sites and state museum facilities provide visitor health screenings and temperature checks upon arrival, require face coverings and social distancing, and are keeping hands-on exhibits off limits for now.

As always, for the latest visitor information, feel free to check the IDNR website for state park and historic site information at <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/Pages/default.aspx>. The Illinois State Museum website has the latest details on admission information, exhibits, online educational resources, and virtual events at www.illinoisstatemuseum.org.

Thank you for your support of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and enjoy the rest of the Summer of 2020.

Colleen Callahan, Director, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

DNR in the News

Chicago Sun Times: Black Bear There: In Illinois?

WCIA: Destination Illinois: Lincoln's New Salem

Gar Spotted: Rare Sighting of Gar at Montrose Harbor

Restoration Complete, New Discoveries Made at Old Norway Cemetery Dam

JEPC Sees an Upswing in the Number of New Visitors to the Site

Callahan Highlights Relationship Between Ag and Natural Resources

Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Highlights

Illinois Beach State Park Beach Closure on Saturdays and Sundays



IDNR announced that the beach at Adeline Jay Geo-Karis Illinois Beach State Park will be closed Saturdays and Sundays (effective Aug. 1) to encourage social distancing and prevent further spread of COVID-19. The beach, including the North Unit, South Unit and North Point Beach, will remain closed on Saturdays and Sundays until further notice. [Click here](#) for more details.

New Illinois Military Museums and Veterans Memorial Guide



The Illinois Military Museums & Veterans Memorials guide shows some of the ways communities throughout Illinois have chosen to honor our brave soldiers and veterans - through memorials, monuments, and cemeteries to remember the fallen; events to celebrate the brave; and historic forts and museums that provide a glimpse into the lives of soldiers past. [Click here](#) to view the new Illinois Military Museums & Veterans Memorials guide online.

Squirrel Season Opens



Squirrel hunting season in Illinois opened on Aug. 1. For Public Hunting Areas in Illinois, [click here](#).



Don't miss a hunting permit or application deadline again!

Need hunting, fishing or boating license renewal reminders?

Check out the **FREE Outdoor Illinois App.**



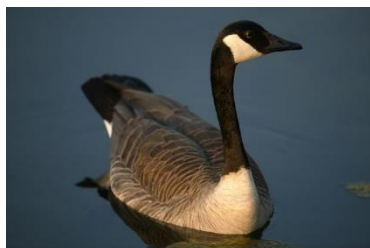
Download through the App Store or Google Play on iPhone or Android.

Hunting and Trapping Digest



The *Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations 2020-2021* is now available. Print copies will be available soon, and a PDF version of the digest is available on the IDNR website [at this link](#).

Illinois DNR Announces Five-Year Waterfowl Seasons Plan for 2021-2025



The IDNR has selected season dates and submitted waterfowl hunting zone lines for 2021-2025 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The 2021-2025 hunting seasons regulations were developed based on a thorough review of scientific information and input from waterfowl hunters and are intended to provide the most opportunity for hunters while protecting waterfowl resources. For more details, [click here](#).

Education

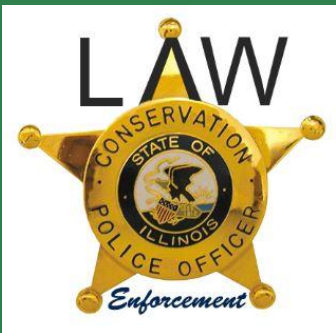
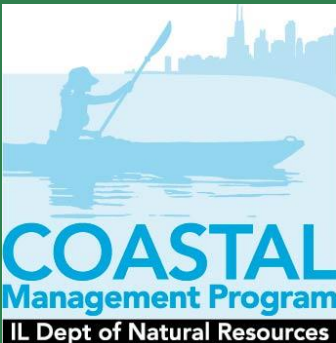


The IDNR Division of Education's [A to Z website](#) is full of educational tools for all ages. You will find great resources for teaching, informative podcasts and much more.

Illinois Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program Encourages Economic Revitalization



The IDNR announced the third round of recipients of the Illinois Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program, a statewide historic preservation incentive that encourages private investment in historic properties across Illinois. See the winners by [clicking here](#).



Visit a State Historic Site



Effective July 15, most IDNR State Historic Sites reopened to the public. Plan a visit soon. [Click here](#) for more information.

Illinois State Museum Reopening



Illinois, we've missed you! We're thrilled to welcome you back to the Illinois State Museum. We've implemented new protocols for visitor safety and well-being. Learn more about them and how to schedule a visit through our [web page](#).

IDNR Public Hunting Access Expands Deer and Squirrel Sites



The IDNR has announced an additional archery deer hunting opportunity in 2020 through the Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP). IRAP has added a third archery deer hunting period December 16-31. Additional opportunities are also available for Youth Firearm Deer Hunting and squirrel hunting. Learn

more at the [web page](#).

Tot Time Returns to Dickson Mounds Museum



Dickson Mounds Museum offers free family programming with a new format. Tot Time Thursdays will return to the Dickson Mounds facility in Lewistown beginning Thursday, August 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Learn more at [the Illinois State Museum website](#).



Deer Firearm and Muzzleloader Hunting Information



Hunters can apply for firearm and muzzleloader permits through the 3rd Lottery drawing; applications are due August 21. [Click here](#) for more details.

Be A Hero



Invasive species – non-native plants, animals, or pathogens that cause harm to natural areas – impact both our economy and the environment. Their environmental impacts can affect outdoor activities such as fishing, hiking and birding. You can help prevent these impacts by becoming a hero and join other outdoor enthusiasts in [fighting the spread of invasive species](#).

Species Search Pages



Many Biodiversity of Illinois species search pages have recently been posted to the IDNR Division of Education's Web page, and many more will be added in the coming months. We are also working to make searching the large number of files easier for you. See what you can learn about [the species in Illinois](#)!

2020 Census - Don't Forget to be Counted



Illinoisans received invitations last spring to complete the 2020 Census. It has never been easier to respond on your own, whether online, over the phone or by mail—all without having to meet a census taker. It is not too late to complete your 2020 Census. [Do it today!](#)

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Lost Safety Education Card?



If you have lost your Safety Education Card and need to reprint it, or just need to look up your Safety Certification Number, [go online](#) for more details.

State of Illinois Coronavirus Response



Protecting the health, safety, and wellbeing of Illinoisans is Governor Pritzker's top priority. The administration continues to work closely with local health departments, county officials and federal partners to put systems in place to [respond to COVID-19](#).

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For more information check out our [monthly calendar of events!](#)

Visit the IDNR on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter!](#)